



Photos by John Yeley | For the Herald Ledger and the Times Leader
Clinton Lodge No. 82 celebrated its bicentennial with a celebration on Saturday evening, emphasizing brotherhood, integrity, and personal growth.



“We have an altar in the middle of the floor,” Clinton Lodge No. 82 Master Lafon Coomer said. “We have the Bible open to specific scriptures. We take people of all religions — we are not a religion. We do not offer a plan of salvation, but we take men of all religions, and just promote brotherhood.”



The original 1826 charter of Clinton Lodge No. 82. In honor of the bicentennial, the lodge is collecting items for a time capsule with the hope it will be opened by Clinton Lodge No. 82 members 100 years from now.

‘That’s the brotherhood’

Clinton Lodge No. 82 celebrates bicentennial

BY JOHN YELEY
FOR THE HERALD LEDGER AND TIMES LEADER

PRINCETON — The Clinton Lodge No. 82 Free and Accepted Masons celebrated their bicentennial anniversary on Saturday night.

Clinton Lodge No. 82 has remained active since 1826 — promoting freemasonry’s core values of integrity, brotherhood, personal growth and service to others.

Saturday’s celebration featured a ceremony, guest speakers, historical exhibits, and educational displays highlighting Clinton Lodge No. 82’s history.

Visiting Lodge Grandmaster Luke Martin, with the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, said it was those values that brought him into the fraternity that he’s been a part of for 19 years.

“[When] I was growing up, I saw good men in the neighborhood doing great things in the community, and I kind of showed interest in that and found out they were Masons,” Martin said. “I was like, ‘I want to be part of that.’ When you see good people doing good things, you can never go wrong.”

Lodge members dedicated a flagpole as well as a cornerstone of their former building that burned down, while

enjoying each other’s fellowship with food and conversation.

“To have 200 years under your belt for a lodge, that says a lot,” Martin said. “You know, just to celebrate that with them and the families — and don’t forget the families. Even though we meet here as brothers, our families are our biggest support, and we really appreciate them.”

Clinton Lodge No. 82 Master Lafon Coomer said there are many misconceptions about masons that he wants to clear up and address.

“We have an altar in the middle of the floor,” Coomer said. “We have the Bible open to specific scriptures. We take people of all religions — we are not a religion. We do not offer a plan of salvation, but we take men of all religions, and just promote brotherhood.”

Martin agreed that brotherhood is the most important part of the experience, and the central theme of the bicentennial festivities.

“You can go anywhere in the world, and there’s probably a brother around the corner that if [you] ever needs some help, they’re there to help you,” Martin said. “And if they need help, they know we’re there for them. That’s the brotherhood.”

In honor of the bicentennial, the lodge is collecting items for a time capsule with the hope it will be opened by Clinton Lodge No. 82 members 100 years from now.



Bowles says that all of the funding from the Friends of the Pennyrile Golf Scramble goes into whatever the biggest needs are at the golf course, and ways to attract more people.



When reports surfaced in November 2024 that the Pennyrile State Golf Course might be shut down, Dawson Springs launched numerous efforts to keep it open.

Dawson Springs continues fight for local golf course, receives community and state support

BY ALEXA BLACK
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DAWSON SPRINGS — When reports surfaced in November 2024 that the Pennyrile State Golf Course might be shut down, the Dawson Springs community launched numerous efforts to keep it open.

Petitions circulated, residents and golfers voiced their opposition, and many community members reached out to state representatives and utilized local journalists in hopes to save the course. In recent years since the announcement, Friends of the Pennyrile have consistently hosted a yearly golf scramble — fundraiser wherein the funds go directly into the town’s beloved course. So far, efforts have proven fruitful, local golfer and resident Rick Bowles said, adding that the community has seen some progress and because of that many in Dawson Springs now have hope.

“Actually, it is doing better and we have had people with the state park come down and go through it all with us,” Bowles said. “With the scramble, we made over \$5,000 again for it to go back into the park.”

Bowles says that all of the funding goes into whatever the biggest needs are at the golf course and to attract more people. Present at the golf scramble were multiple state representatives, organizers Joe and Tana Roberts, the local golf committee and members of Friends for the Pennyrile. Dawson Springs Mayor Jenny



“[The state parks employees] are helping us and that is something,” local golfer and resident Rick Bowles said. “They are committed to it now. Also, Representatives Wade Williams and Walker Thomas are really backing us. We are getting a lot of help from people in the government. The Friends of the Pennyrile is still fighting with us, and strong.”

Sewell is also a major advocate of preserving the course for years to come.

To Bowles, this signifies commitment from the park and the state to keep it open for the time being, and that the community’s voices have been heard. While he says that the course is not completely up to par maintenance wise, all of these efforts are a step in the right direction.

However, according to Bowles, the course’s biggest problem currently is the drainage and greens. Enhancing the greens and resolving the drainage issues that occur after a substantial rain would put the Pennyrile State Golf Course on equal ground as other golf courses at state parks across the region.

“We are looking at getting different grass and stuff to help with the drainage. We have a new guy that is over this area now, and they have put him in here

to help with the course. [State parks employees] are helping us and that is something,” Bowles told the Times Leader. “They are committed to it now. Also, Representatives Wade Williams and Walker Thomas are really backing us. We are getting a lot of help from people in the government.”

“The Friends of the Pennyrile is still fighting with us, and strong,” he added.

Bowles has heard commentary from travelers — either out of state or golfer across the region — who have noticed more funding going into surrounding state parks, rather than Pennyrile State Park.

For the time being, Bowles says that Friends of the Pennyrile is waiting to see what further grants might be pursued and is keeping an eye of what the state’s intentions are, which will ultimately help members decide where the funding should go into.

“I think Pennyrile still has half the people, half the maintenance and half of the money,” Bowles said.

“But, it is doing better and the state is doing a lot better by us. We are going to use this funding, whether it be buying more equipment, putting in better greens. We are just waiting to see what the government is going to do and how we can help them with it.”

City of Kuttawa
PUBLIC HEARING

The Kuttawa Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing at 2 P.M. on September 9th, 2026 at Kuttawa City Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is for public input on the following:

1. Encroachment Setback Variance of 5’ on the side lot at O-K-4-16 and undeveloped lot

Kuttawa Board of Adjustments